DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 106 002 PS 007 893

TITLE	Child Abuse and Neglect Activities, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
INSTITUTION	Office of Child Development (DHEW), Washington, D.C.
REPORT NO	DHEW-OHD-75-4
PUB DATE	Dec 74
NOTE	16p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS	*Child Abuse; Demonstration Programs; *Federal Legislation; *Federal Programs; *Grants; *Program Descriptions; Social Services
IDENTIFIERS	*National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

ABSTRACT

This pamphlet gives a brief history of federally funded programs related to child abuse and neglect and focuses on descriptions of the projects funded under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974. Descriptions of demonstration, research, and funding activities of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect are also included. (ED)

ED106002

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

PS

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ACTIVITIES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PS007893

05402

Issued by the Office of Child Development (Division of Public Education),
Office of Human Development December 1974

00103

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ACTIVITIES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

In June of 1973, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Caspar W. Weinberger designated the Office of Child Development as the lead agency in a new department-wide effort to combat the problems of child abuse and neglect. The Secretary established an Intradepartmental Committee, under OCD's leadership, to coordinate all HEW programs concerned with child abuse and directed participating agencies to set aside $4 million for new projects to assist abused children and their families.

Six months later, Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974 (P.L. 93–247). The new law created a National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and authorized grants to the states and to public and private agencies for programs concerned with child abuse. The National Center, which was placed within OCD's Children's Bureau, was given legal responsibility for administering the grants programs.

The Act defines child abuse and neglect as "physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of eighteen by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened. . . ." While there are no accurate statistics on the incidence of child abuse and neglect, estimates range anywhere between 60,000 and 500,000 cases a year. In Florida, as a result of a massive public education effort, coupled with a 24-hour hot line, the number of suspected cases of child abuse reported rose from 17 in 1971 to 19,000 in 1972 and 29,000 in 1973. Approximately 60 percent of the cases were found to be valid.

DHEW Publication No. (OHD) 75–4

06004

Services related to child abuse and neglect are provided through a network of state and local agencies, including hospitals, courts, the police and public and private social services agencies. Many of these services are partially funded by Title IV (A) and (B) of the Social Security Act which authorizes protective services for children. Too often, however, services consist only of crisis intervention to help the child rather than of continuous and comprehensive services to treat the entire family. In many areas, services need to be improved and better coordinated. In addition, there are gaps in current knowledge about the causes of child abuse, and no reliable national statistics have been collected on the extent and severity of the problem. Confusion also exists over the legal rights and responsibilities of persons to report suspected cases of child abuse.

The long-range goal of the Federal child abuse effort will be to help states and localities strengthen their capacity to provide services to identify and prevent abuse and to assist abused and neglected children and their families. Projects undertaken by the new National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect and by the HEW Intradepartmental Committee will focus on collection of accurate data, new research, and development of more effective systems for providing child abuse services related to prevention, identification and treatment.

Federal Funding for Child Abuse Projects

As previously mentioned, $4 million in existing HEW funds was allocated by the HEW Secretary for Intradepartmental Committee projects during FY 1974. Congress appropriated $4.5 million for FY 1974 for activities legislated by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, including establishment of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, with extended authority to obligate the money up to December 31, 1974. For FY 1975, OCD has requested $15 million for Child Abuse Act

09405

programs, bringing the total amount of funds expected to be available under the law during FY 1975 to approximately $19 million.

Intradepartmental Committee Projects

Four key HEW Offices represented on the Intradepartmental Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect were instructed to make available funds totalling $4 million for new child abuse projects. These projects are concerned with four main areas: better identification and reporting of child abuse; development and testing of a variety of treatment approaches; development of model programs aimed at long-range prevention; and collection and dissemination of information to increase knowledge and public awareness of the problem. The following are summaries of projects undertaken by the various agencies serving on the Intradepartmental Committee.

Office of Child Development

- OCD awarded a $155,000 grant to the Institute of Judicial Administration in New York City to revise the Model Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law which was developed by OCD's Children's Bureau in 1962. The Institute has reviewed existing state legislation and actual reporting practices in order to draw up a new law which will clarify the rights and obligations of individuals to report suspected cases of abuse. It is anticipated that the model law will be distributed in May of 1975 to the states for use on a voluntary basis.

- A system for gathering data on the incidence of child abuse and neglect is being developed by the American Humane Association of Denver, Colorado, under a $166,499 OCD grant. The Humane Association has

00006

developed a standard abuse and neglect case reporting form that has been adopted in 25 states and is under consideration in the remaining states. Data on the form, including information on characteristics of abused children, family gross income, and stresses affecting abusing families, will be used to compile periodic national, regional and state reports on child abuse and neglect. The first national report will be published in May of 1975.

- A 160-county survey across the country of existing programs concerned with child abuse is being carried out by the Mershon Center of Ohio State University under a $179,046 OCD grant. The survey is identifying strengths and weaknesses in local programs for the purpose of developing program models for later demonstration.

- Eleven county and local demonstration programs to assist victims of abuse and their families have received $1.4 million in joint funding from OCD and from SRS's Community Services Administration. Many of the programs will coordinate existing services to demonstrate effective ways to operate county-wide prevention and treatment programs. Projects include a live-in treatment program in a Los Angeles hospital for abused children and their families; a program that will make extensive use of volunteers to provide protective services in a 4-county area in Arkansas; and a project that will establish a 24-hour center and hot line in Louisiana. The eleven projects will be evaluated under a $200,000 grant awarded by the Bureau of Health Services in the Public Health Service. The evaluation will focus on organization of programs, staff training, cost-analysis and the combinations of services that are most effective with different population groups.

09607

- Over 100 self-help groups for abusing parents will be established with the assistance of Parents Anonymous, Inc., of Los Angeles, California, under a $198,655 OCD grant. Started in 1970 by Jolly K., a former child abuser, Parents Anonymous proposes to increase its organization from 80 to 200 chapters. Materials on Parents Anonymous will be disseminated widely, and technical assistance will be provided to communities wanting to establish self-help groups.

- Head Start staff are receiving training and materials on child abuse emphasizing identification and referral of cases as the responsibility of all Head Start programs.

Social and Rehabilitation Service

- A survey of 10 state and 30 local welfare departments, identifying problems in providing services to abused children, has been completed by SRS's Community Services Administration. The data will be made available to state welfare departments and to other interested agencies.

- A system for evaluating the cost-effectiveness of protective services provided to abused and neglected children and their families is being developed under a $109,000 SRS contract. The system will utilize a number of measures of effectiveness, including repeated occurrences and changes in severity of abuse and neglect in families who have received services from welfare departments.

- A 3-year research project to determine early warning signals of potential child abuse and neglect has been funded under a $252,000 SRS grant. The project will study healthy and unhealthy factors in child rearing, identify high risk families, and test the appropriateness of intervention services to prevent abuse and neglect.

00008

- A "State of Knowledge" report on child neglect has been completed by SRS and will be disseminated widely in coming months. The report, which was prepared under a $25,000 grant, analyses past research findings and includes information obtained from interviews with experts on child neglect.

- Guides for state and local welfare departments on setting up model systems for delivering protective services to abused and neglected children and their families are being prepared by SRS.

- The Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program for young children will be utilized by SRS to increase awareness among program participants of the need for early detection, reporting and treatment of child abuse and neglect cases.

Office of Education

- Models for training teachers to identify and work with abused children are being developed by OE, using $341,000 in Title III (Section 306) Elementary and Secondary Education Act money. Teachers will be trained to work with community agencies treating abuse and will develop skills to help abused and neglected children overcome emotional trauma impeding effective learning. OE hopes to produce one or more models for teacher training and to pilot test them in selected school systems across the country.

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

- Guidelines will be issued to 1500 Public Health Service (PHS) projects and their affiliated back-up hospitals on identification and management of child abuse and neglect cases. These projects include

06609

Children and Youth Programs, Maternal and Infant Care Projects and Migrant and Neighborhood Health Centers. PHS has set aside $150,000 for preparation and dissemination of the guidelines. Before they are prepared, a survey will be conducted on current PHS projects offering services related to child abuse.

- Research projects on the mental health aspects of child abuse and neglect which are significant factors in cause, prevention and treatment have received $150,000 in grants from the National Institute of Mental Health. These studies are designed to fill gaps in knowledge and to lead to new mental health approaches to treating the child abuse problem.

- A bio-medical and behavioral research program, emphasizing the consequences of child abuse and neglect on the developing child, will be designed by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The program is expected to stimulate and support on a continuing basis health-related research on the causes and effects of abuse. NICHD set aside $20,000 for a conference on research in child abuse, which was held in June 1974, and will result in a report on research problems in this field. The agency also awarded about $250,000 in grants for four new research projects related to child abuse and neglect. Research subjects include the possible relationship between population density and child abuse; the effect of family size and child spacing on the lives of children and parents; and factors affecting mother-infant attachment, including birth order and the sex of the child.

- Six research projects on treatment of child abuse cases in health care settings have received approximately $500,000 from the Bureau of Community Health Services. Topics of study include early identification and prevention of abuse, follow-up care for

00010

traumatized children, child abuse in institutions, and development in high risk infants.

- The American Academy of Pediatrics has conducted a survey of services provided by a sample of health-based multidisciplinary child abuse programs, under a $150,000 Public Health Service contract. A report on the survey is available from the AAP.

- Models for training a wide range of professionals in the identification, prevention and treatment of child abuse are being developed and tested under a $360,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The training modules are intended for medical and mental health personnel and welfare, school and law enforcement staff.

- NIMH has awarded a $110,255 grant for a study of the incidence of and social factors associated with child abuse and neglect cases in one community. The survey will include data on kinds of abuse, family structure and functioning, and special family problems.

- NIMH has funded a $114,950 study which will analyse the formal and informal decision-making process used by agencies in handling child abuse cases in two contrasting Massachusetts jurisdictions.

National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

The National Center, created by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974, is located within the Children's Bureau in the Office of Child Development. The Center will serve as a focal point within the Federal Government for the development of plans and policies and programs related to child abuse and neglect and will implement the Child Abuse Act.

99811

One of the major functions assigned to the Center by the Act is to conduct research into the causes, prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect, including studies of the national incidence of the problem and publication of annual research summaries. The Act also directs the Center to serve as an information clearinghouse on child abuse programs; to publish training materials for persons working with abused children and families; and to provide technical assistance to agencies and community groups offering child abuse and neglect services.

The Center must use 50 percent of the funds appropriated under the Child Abuse Act for demonstration grants to public and private agencies for training activities, establishment of regional centers offering a broad range of services, and for other innovative projects. In addition, the National Center is responsible for awarding grants to states to help them strengthen prevention and treatment programs. Not less than 5 percent or more than 20 percent of the funds appropriated under the Act are to be reserved for this purpose. In order to qualify for state grants authorized by the Child Abuse Act, states must meet certain requirements contained in the child abuse law. These requirements are concerned with such matters as immunity for persons reporting abuse, prompt investigation and action on cases, and confidentiality of records.

National Center Activities for FY 1975

During FY 1975, the Center will conduct a study of the national incidence of child abuse and neglect in order to develop more accurate data on the extent and severity of the problem. The Center will also establish a computerized clearinghouse for information about public and private programs related to child abuse and will publish an annual summary of recently conducted research in the field.

Special curriculum materials on child abuse and neglect are being developed by the Center to train health, law enforcement and social services personnel. In addition, a

96612

series of informational booklets will be issued for professionals working with abused children and families. Subject matters will include the team approach to child abuse problems, statewide public education campaigns, operation of crisis nurseries and police department training programs.

New Demonstration Programs

The National Center will support two major demonstration programs in FY 1975—one to establish centers providing a broad range of child abuse services and another to set up resource projects which will offer technical assistance on services concerned with child abuse and neglect to state and local agencies. The purpose of a demonstration program is to develop models that communities across the country can adopt, using their own resources.

The first demonstration program will fund 12 centers which will provide comprehensive medical, psychological, social and other services to abused children and their families. The centers will use teams of professionals, including physicians, psychologists and social workers, who will focus on treating and maintaining the family as a unit. Center staff will be responsible for direct investigation of cases, provision of treatment, referral and follow-up services. The 12 centers will also conduct public education on child abuse and neglect and operate 24-hour hot lines to receive reports and provide counseling in child abuse cases.

The second demonstration program will set up resource projects to provide supportive services, including education and training, to large numbers of professionals, agencies and community groups involved in combatting child abuse and neglect. Technical assistance will be provided by the projects to state and local agencies to help them establish or improve child abuse programs. They will also send teams of professionals to handle abuse problems in isolated rural areas.

06013

The National Center will also support a program in FY 1975 for innovative projects dealing with child abuse and neglect.

Research Priorities

While the demonstration programs will provide information for immediate use about the effective delivery of child abuse services, research will focus on causes of child abuse, long-range prevention and lasting remedial treatment.

The National Center expects to fund 17-19 new research grants during FY 1975, concentrating on factors precipitating child abuse within the context of the family and of the external institutions affecting it—including schools, police, courts and social service agencies. This emphasis is supported by the findings of past research and demonstration programs which suggest that children are best served by working with the entire family.

The National Center has identified five major research topics for FY 1975: the causes of child abuse; the relationship of the use of drugs and alcohol to abuse and neglect; the long-range effects of abuse on children and treatment having lasting results; factors causing parents to stop abusive behavior; and measures of the effectiveness of child abuse services.

State Grants and Other Activities

States are submitting application forms for state grants to be awarded under the Child Abuse Act, and eligible states will receive notification of grants by December 31, 1974.

An Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, consisting of representatives from appropriate Federal agencies, was created by the Child Abuse Act to assist the HEW Secretary in the development of Federal Standards for child abuse and neglect programs. The Standards

00614

will be made available to public and private organizations and state and local agencies for use on a voluntary basis. The Advisory Board will also assist the HEW Secretary in establishing regulations for the coordination of all Federally-funded programs related to child abuse and will submit a report on Federal child abuse and neglect activities to the President and Congress. The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect is serving as Executive Secretariat to the Board and is assisting it in carrying out its responsibilities.

06015